

U.S. Embassy Bahrain
Demonstration Notice 46 – August 7, 2013

Violent opposition groups have increased their civil disobedience acts during the past three weeks. These acts largely remain in the restricted areas. However, there have been acts that have taken place in non-restricted village areas, feeder road networks, and on major road infrastructures such as the causeway and highways. The Budaiya Highway has seen increased activity these last three weeks during daylight hours. Be aware of your surroundings at all times. The indiscriminate use of homemade weapons such as IEDs, projectile devices, and Molotov cocktails remains a concern. The police forces remain the primary target.

On Thursday, August 08, 2013, in the evening hours, opposition groups have called for demonstrations in Muqabah and Jannusan Villages along Budaiya Highway. Anticipate that Budaiya Highway west of the Burgerland roundabout will be affected during the evening hours. Expect road closures, increased police activity and heavy traffic. Budaiya Highway is a night restricted area and we strongly advise you to avoid travel during the evening hours. (Yellow Circle)

On Saturday, August 10, 2013, a violent opposition group has called for an unauthorized demonstration in the center of Manama. Expect possible road closures, police activity and heavy traffic. We strongly advise you to avoid this area. (Orange Circle)

Wednesday, August 14, 2013, has been announced by some opposition groups as “Tamarud” or rebellion. The Ministry of Interior has not authorized demonstrations associated with the call for Tamarud. It is likely that the days preceding (August 10th) and following August 14th will witness increased unauthorized demonstrations, civil disobedience acts such as the blocking of roads with homemade tire spikes, construction debris, furniture debris, burning tires, used motor oil, and clashes with police. The majority of these civil disobedience acts will likely take place in the restricted areas. However, these civil disobedience acts may occur in non-restricted village areas, feeder road networks, and on major road infrastructures such as the causeway and highways. We recommend that you avoid non-essential travel.

Spontaneous demonstrations take place in Bahrain from time to time in response to world events or local developments. United States citizens should keep current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times. If you encounter a large public gathering or demonstration, depart the vicinity immediately.

It is important to note that there have been no direct attacks on U.S. citizens in Bahrain to date. That said, spontaneous and at times violent anti-government demonstrations occur in some neighborhoods, particularly at night and on weekends. These demonstrations have included blockades of major highways with burning debris and establishment of unofficial checkpoints. Participants have thrown rocks and Molotov cocktails and used various other homemade weapons, including isolated use of improvised explosive devices. The Ministry of Interior maintains official checkpoints in some areas and routinely uses tear gas and stun grenades along with birdshot and other crowd control measures against demonstrators. Violent clashes between security forces and demonstrators can make travel in and around Bahrain dangerous without advance warning.

Please see below for a map. Areas shaded in red are off-limits to U.S. Citizen Embassy employees and their family members at all times. U.S. Citizen Embassy employees and their family members are permitted to travel in the areas shaded in yellow during daylight hours only.

We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution, Country Specific Information for Bahrain, Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy in Manama can be reached at (973) 1724-2700; the afterhours emergency number is (973) 1724-2957; the fax number is (973) 1725-6242. The [Embassy's web site](http://bahrain.usembassy.gov), <http://bahrain.usembassy.gov>, includes travel information and the Worldwide Caution and Demonstration Notices. All U.S. citizens are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program. The Consular Section can be reached at ManamaConsular@state.gov.

RESTRICTED AREAS

